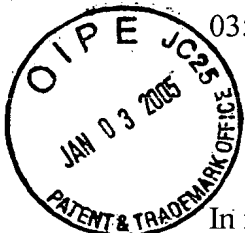


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03500.017848

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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|------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| In re Application of: |) | |
| Nobuyuki ITO, et al. |) | Examiner: Unassigned |
| Application No.: 10/760,316 |) | Group Art Unit: 2622 |
| Filed: January 21, 2004 |) | Confirmation No.: 1534 |
| For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS |) | January 3, 2005 |

Commissioner for Patents
Post Office Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (the "citation form"). The documents were recently cited in the enclosed European Search Report, which is dated November 15, 2004. A copy of the Search Report also is enclosed. Except as indicated herein, no copies of the cited documents are enclosed.

STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b), since a first Official Action has not been received in the above-identified application, neither a Statement, Petition, nor payment of a fee is required for this Information Disclosure Statement. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee which may be deemed necessary in connection with

this Information Disclosure Statement to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate of this Information Disclosure Statement is enclosed for that purpose.

REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document Nos. 2000-347476 and 2001-290319, which are identified in the Search Report, were cited in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 12, 2004. Therefore, these patent documents are not listed on the enclosed citation form. However, corresponding Japanese Patent Abstracts of Japan are listed and copies of these document are enclosed.

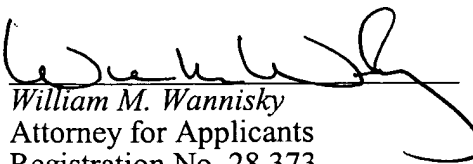
CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the cited information and that an annotated copy of the citation form be returned indicating such consideration.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to the New York address shown below.

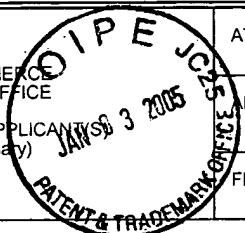
Respectfully submitted,


William M. Wannisky
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 28,373

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WMW:tas

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| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) | | ATTY DOCKET NO. 03500.017848 | | APPLICATION NO. 10/760,316 | |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE | | APPLICANT Nobuyuki ITO, et al. | | | |
| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | FILING DATE January 21, 2004 | | GROUP 2622 | |
| Date Submitted: January 3, 2005 | | | | | |



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| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
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| WO 96/32812 | 10/17/96 | PCT | | | | | |
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| OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | |
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| | Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 2000-347475, 12/15/00. |
| | Patent Abstracts of Japan, Publication No. 2001-290319, 10/19/01. |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.